



State of Utah
Department of Commerce
Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Health Care Assistants and Interested Parties

FROM: Laura Poe, Bureau Manager DOPL

DATE: March 9, 2005

RE: Health Care Assistant Registration

During the 2005 General Session of the Utah Legislature, the Legislature passed House Bill 12, Health Care Assistants, sponsored by Rep. Rebecca Lockhart. This bill amends the Nurse Practice Act (Title 58-31b) by deregulating health care assistants.

In a memo sent out prior to the Legislative Session, it was explained that the Health and Human Services Interim Committee of the Utah Legislature had recommended the discontinuation of health care assistant registration. This recommendation was based, in part, on the fact that the Department of Health requires an extensive review of any employee who will be providing hands on care to a client in any regulated facility. It was determined that the health care assistant registration required by DOPL is a duplication of the services provided by the Department of Health. Subsequently, in the interest of efficiency in government and regulation, deregulation of the health care assistant registration was pursued and achieved.

Therefore, as of May 2, 2005, the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing will no longer register or renew the registration of health care assistants.

Unless prohibited by an employing facility, an individual currently registered as a health care assistant may continue to practice after May 2, 2005; however, that practice would be unlicensed and unregulated by the Division.

NOTE: Please be aware the changes made in this piece of legislation did not affect the certification of nurse aides (CNAs). For information regarding certified nurse aides, please contact the Utah Registry of Health Occupations at (801) 547-9947.